



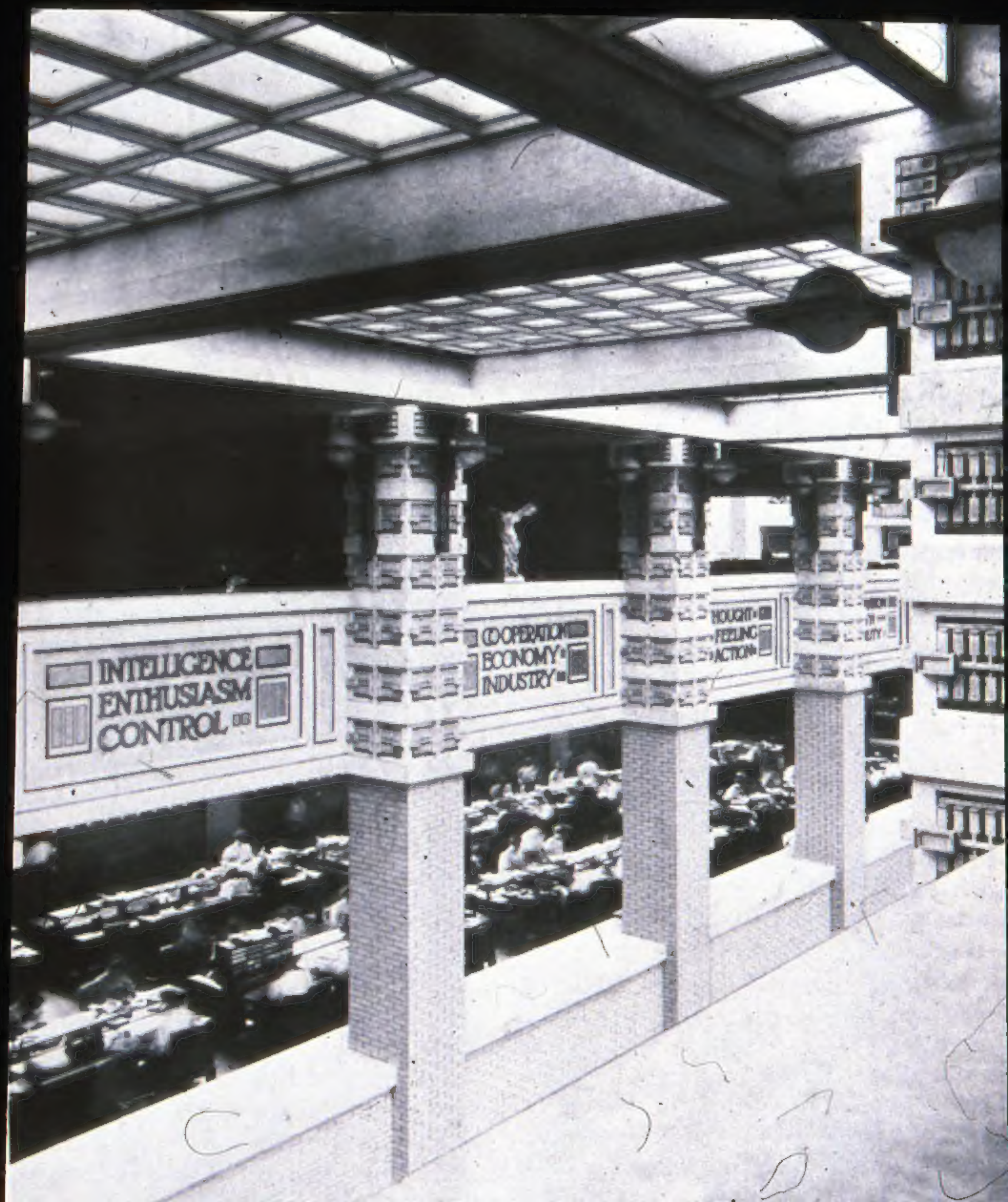
5 Larkin factory shipping office, E and F buildings, 1901. (*The Larkin Idea*, May–November 1901, p. 40)



6 Larkin factory In-Mail Department, E and F buildings, 1901. (*The Larkin Idea*, May–November 1901, p. 37)









60 Metal desk with magnesite panels. (Courtesy The Frank Lloyd Wright Memorial Foundation)

in metal, an additional fireproofing measure. Three different types of desks and four different types of chairs, as well as filing cabinets and lighting fixtures, were fabricated to Wright's designs by the Van Dorn Iron Works of Cleveland, Ohio.¹² The rectangular chairs and desks were made of folded and punched sheet steel riveted somewhat like the framing of a building. The freestanding office chairs with cast-iron bases (see Fig. 49) were exceptionally heavy.¹³ Wright was proud of the easy cleaning made possible by his design for folding chairs that cantilevered from most metal desks (Figs. 61, 62), but in use these chairs allowed only a limited arc of movement and may have been uncomfortable over the course of a full workday. Wright's three-legged office chair was so unstable that it became known as the "suicide chair" among office personnel. These problems led to a minor insurrection in 1913 when some department heads threatened to import more comfortable wooden chairs on their own.¹⁴ The Larkin executives were able to quell this uprising, but it indicates that Wright considered appearance before comfort in his furniture design.

Wright promised Darwin Martin that the new ad-



61 Metal desk with attached chair in open position.



Metal desk with attached chair folded.









41 The In-Mail Department, third floor. (Courtesy The Frank Lloyd Wright Memorial Foundation)





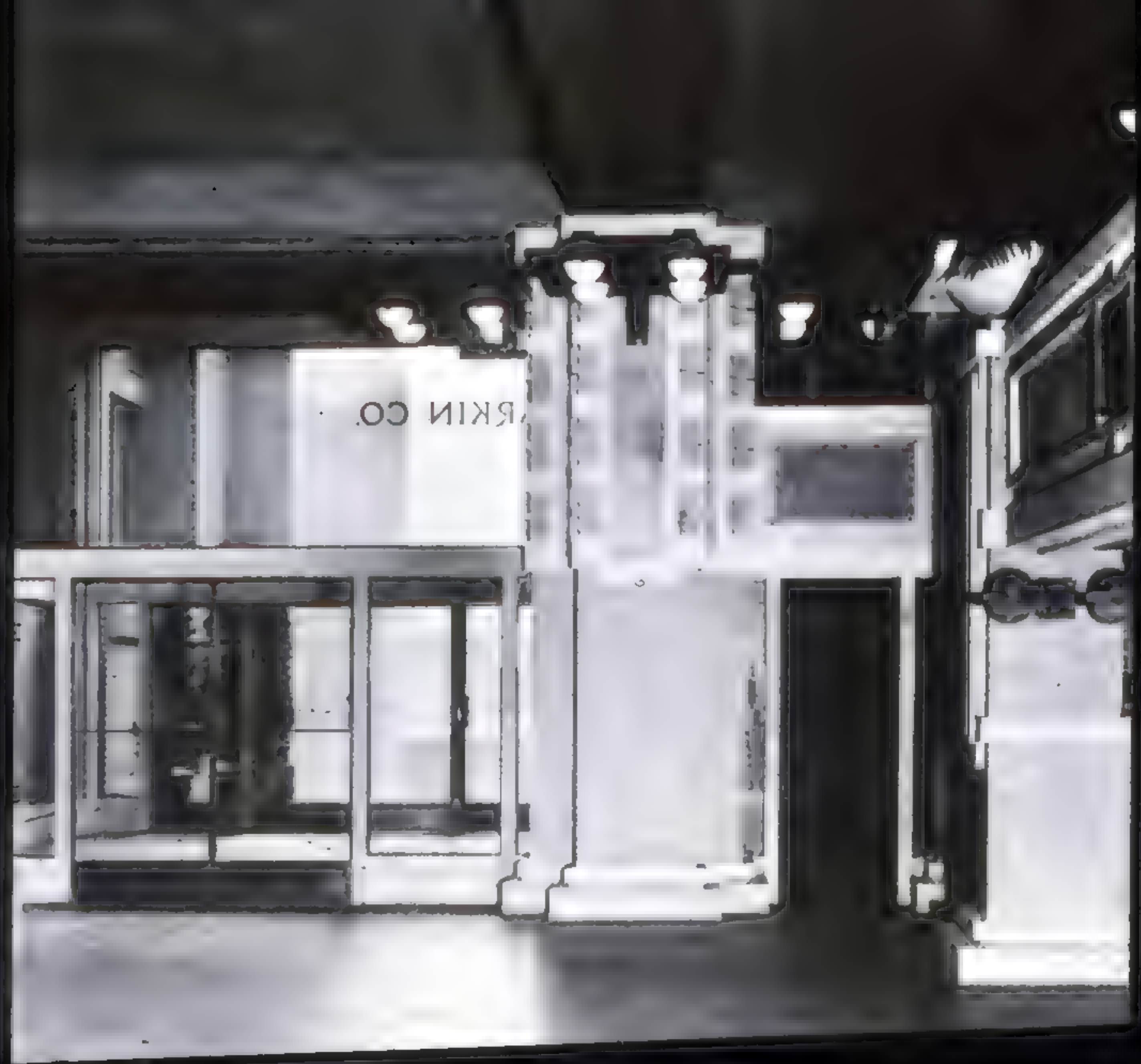






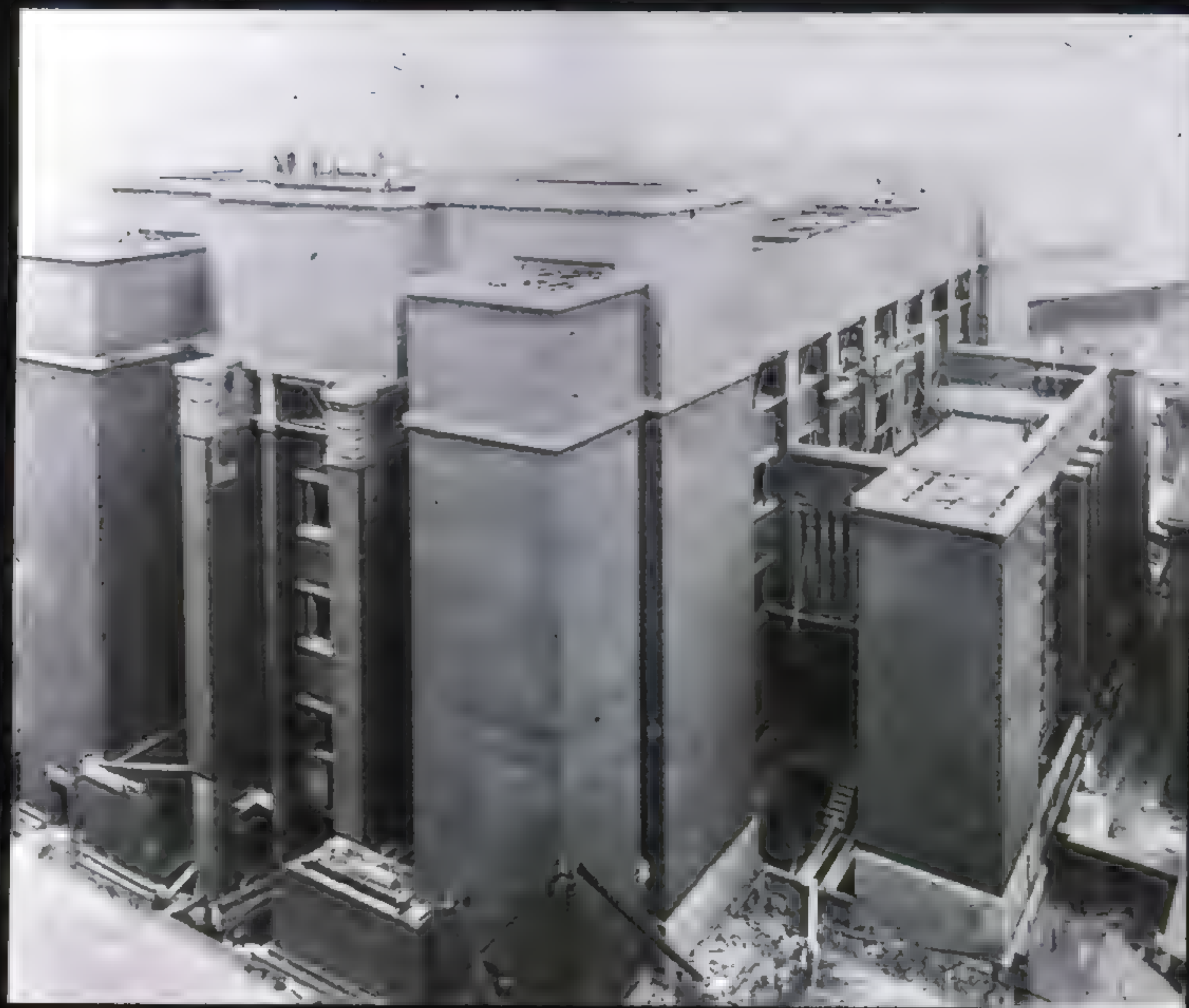




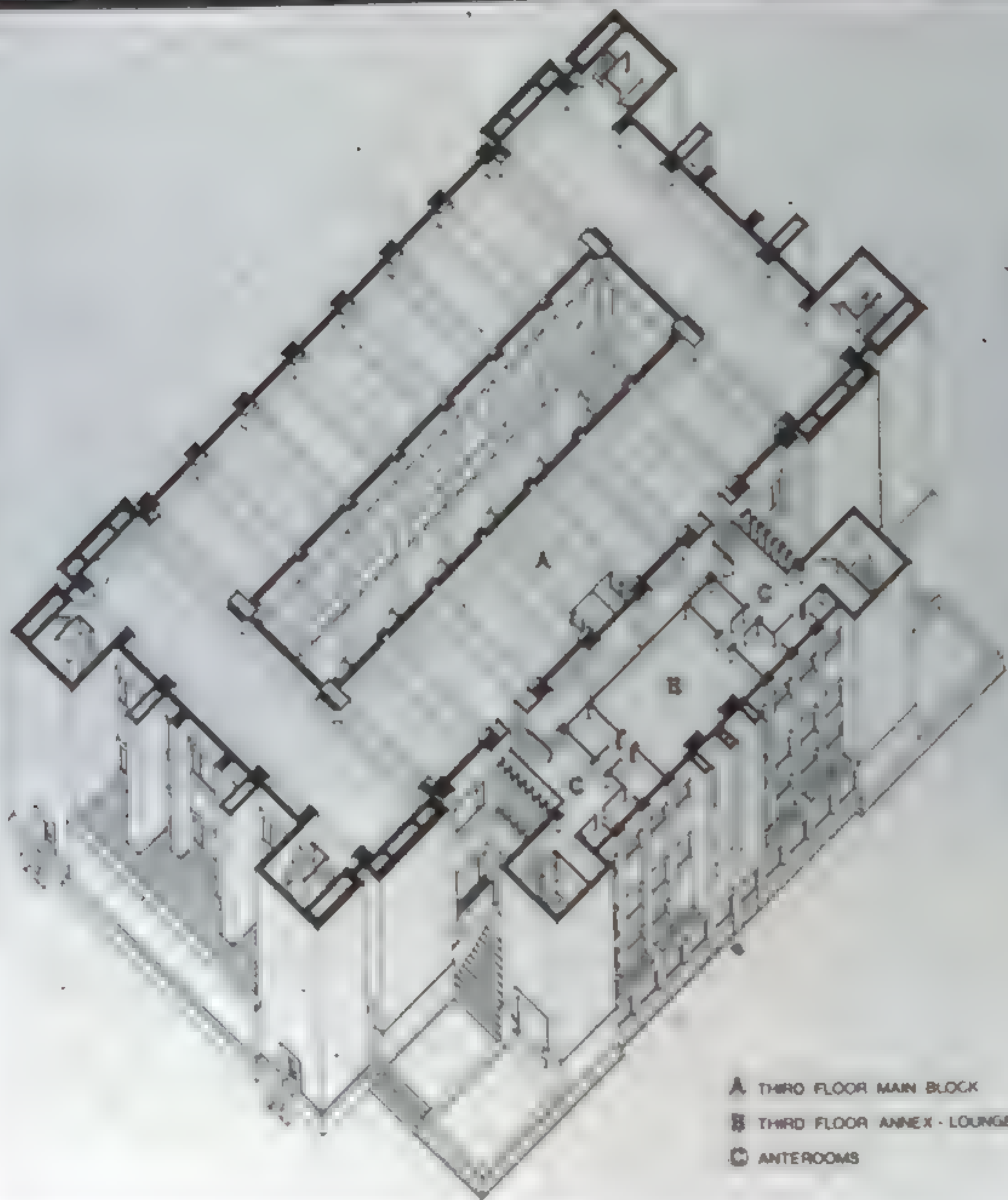












- A THIRD FLOOR MAIN BLOCK
- B THIRD FLOOR ANNEX - LOUNGE
- C ANTEROOMS

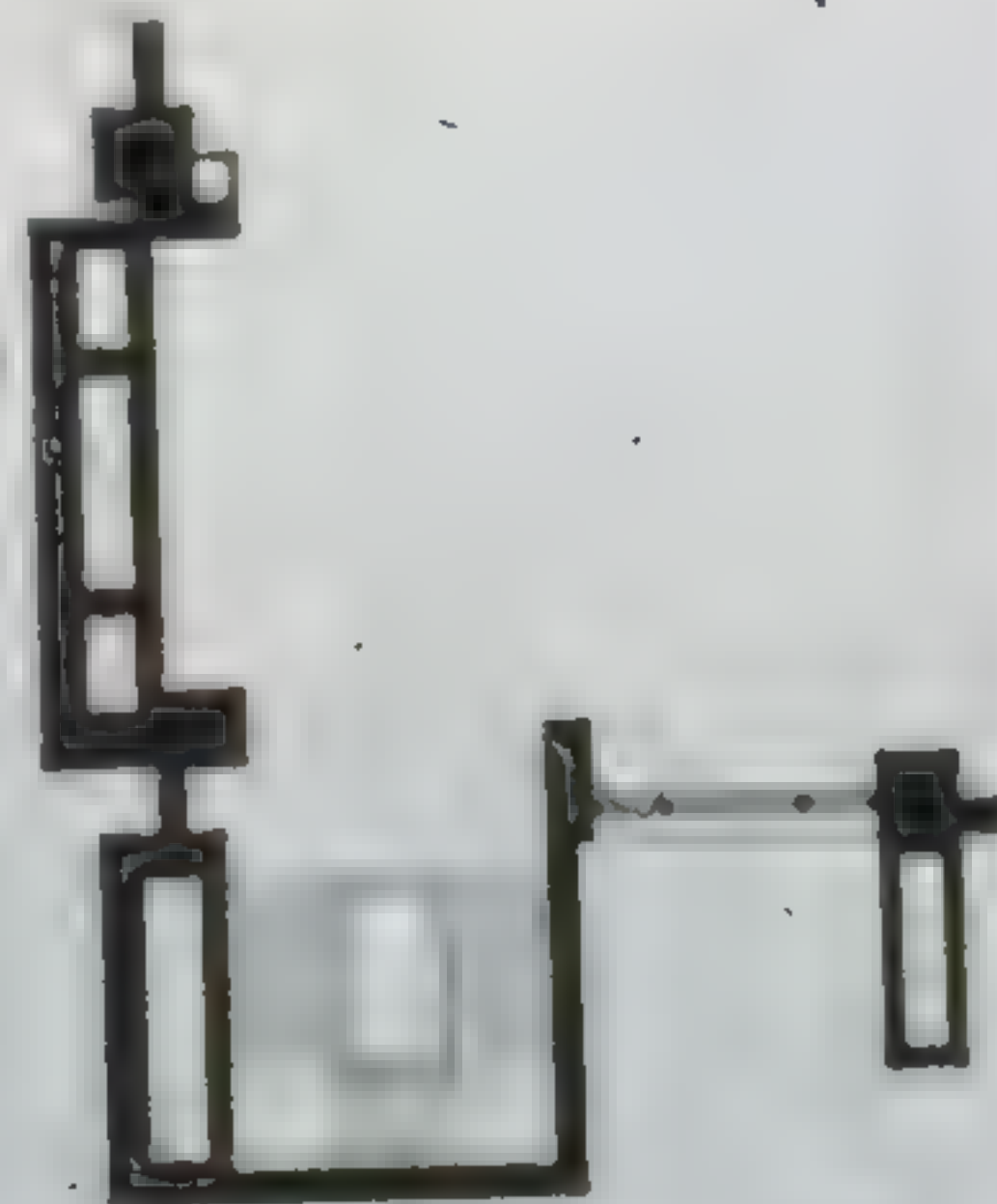
The Evolution and Sources of the Design 29



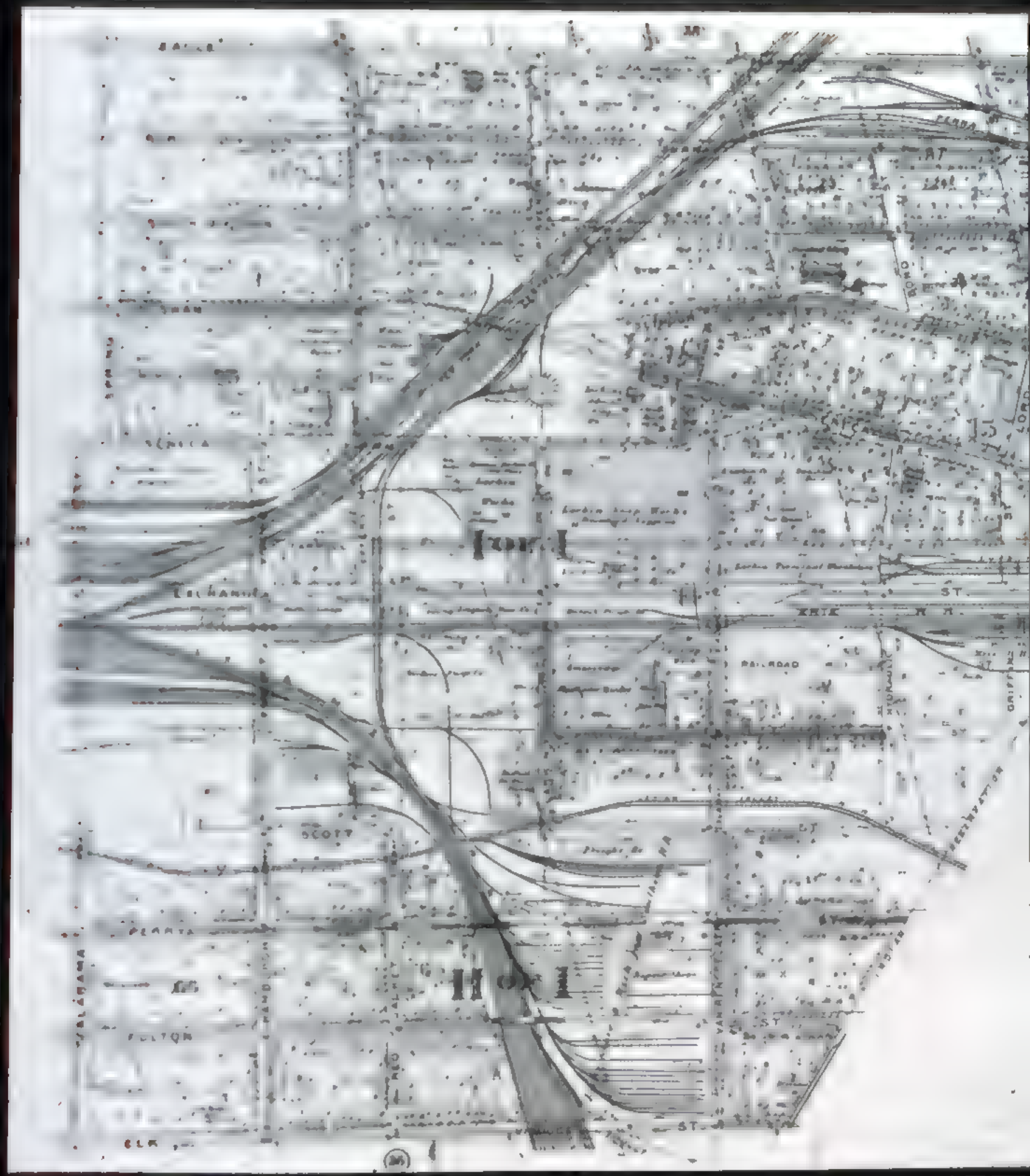
EARLY 1923
GROUP 1 PRELIMINARY

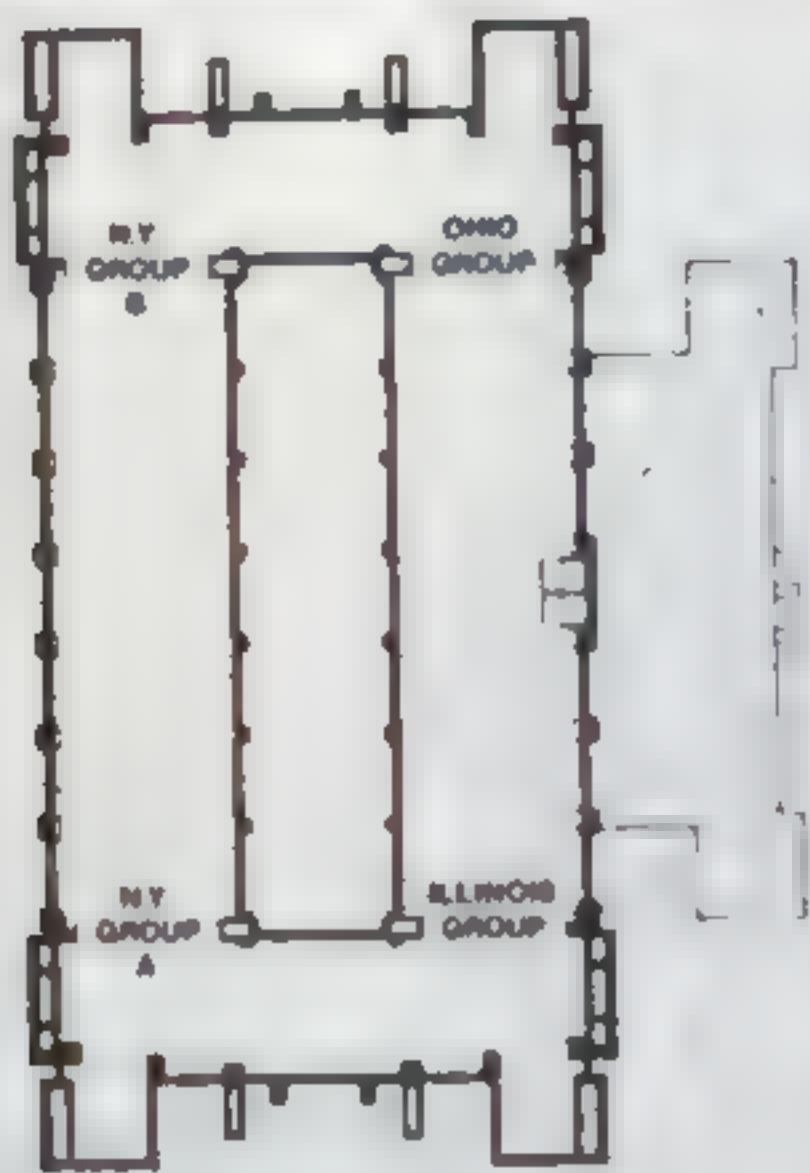


LATE 1923
GROUP 3 PRELIMINARY



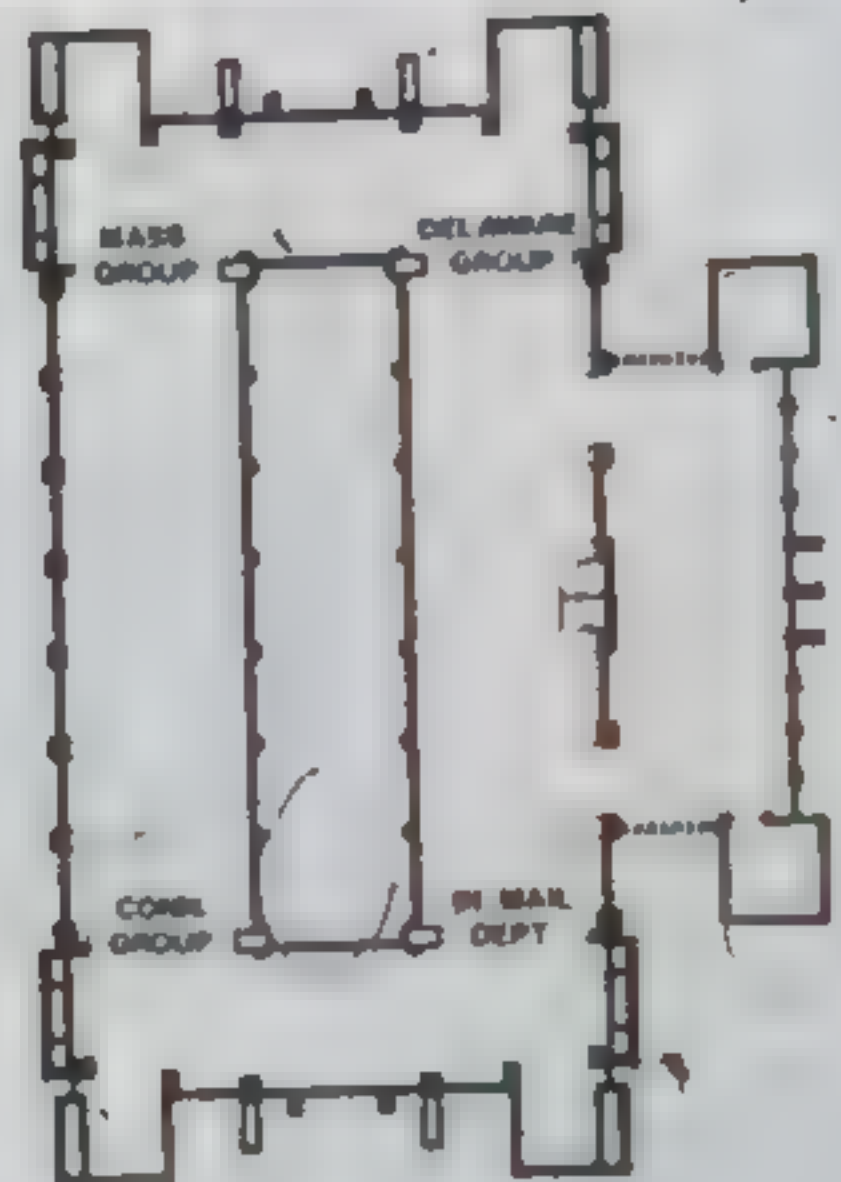
REVISED APRIL 1 1924
FINAL DESIGN





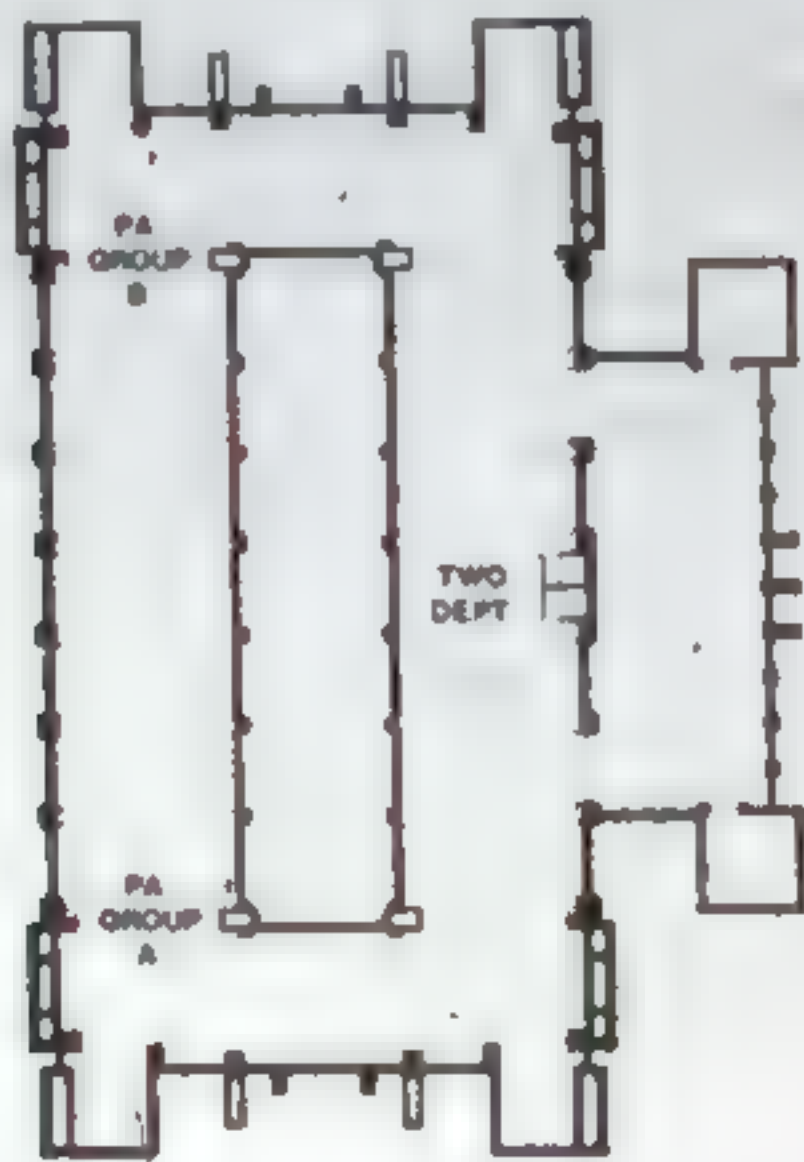
FOURTH FLOOR

37 Fourth-floor schematic plan of mail room setting arranged by States. (Drawn by James Cahill)

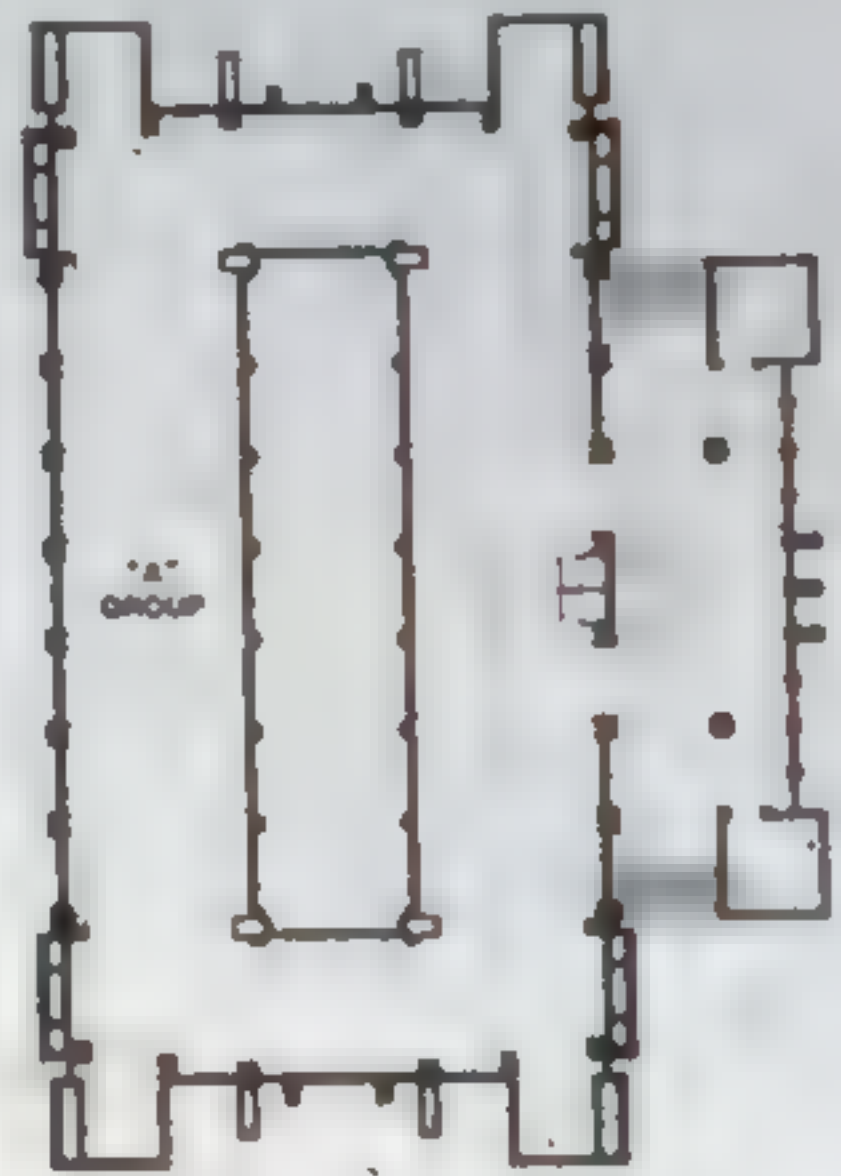


THIRD FLOOR

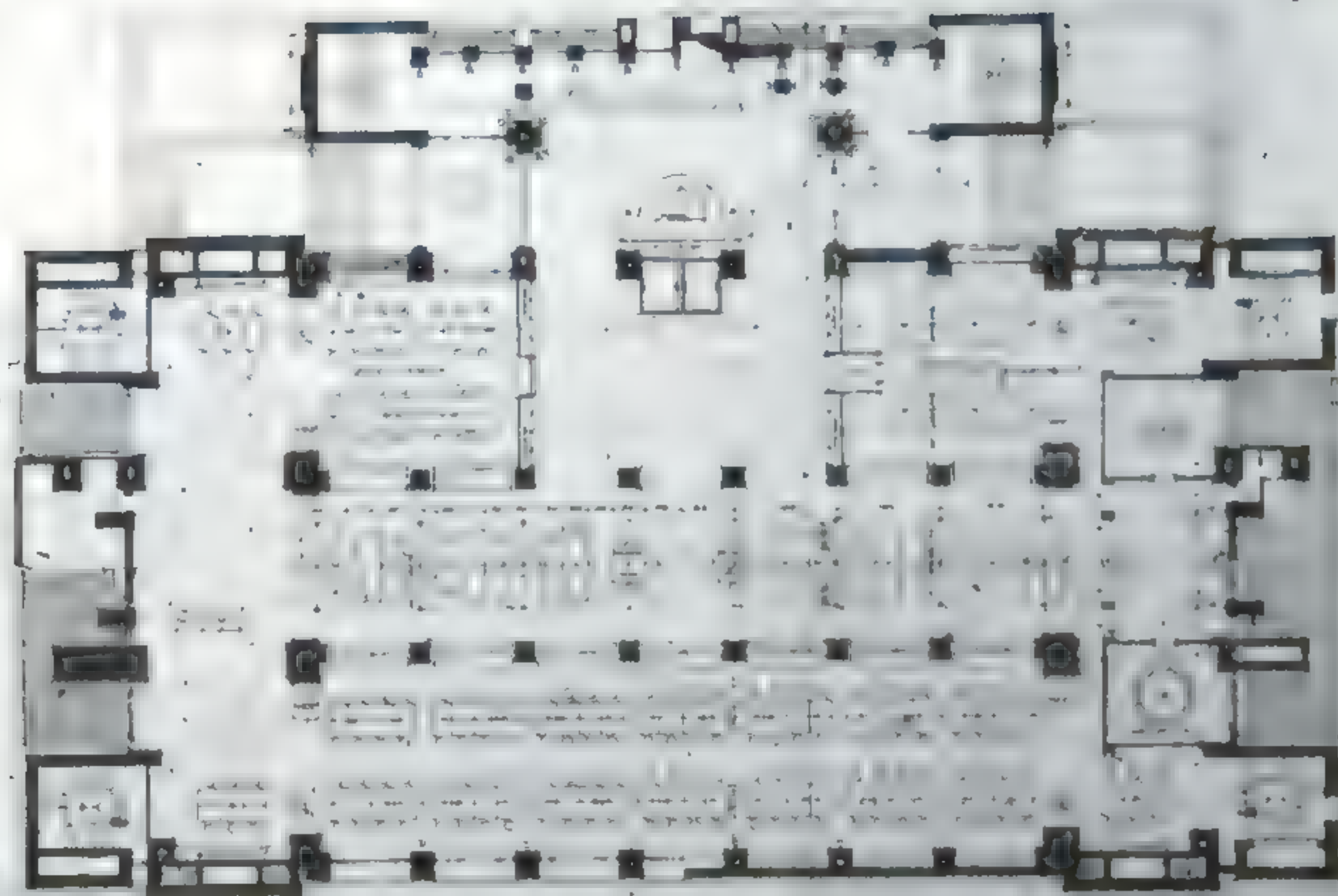
38 Third-floor schematic plan showing location of In-Mail Department and mail-order state groups. (Drawn by James Cahill)

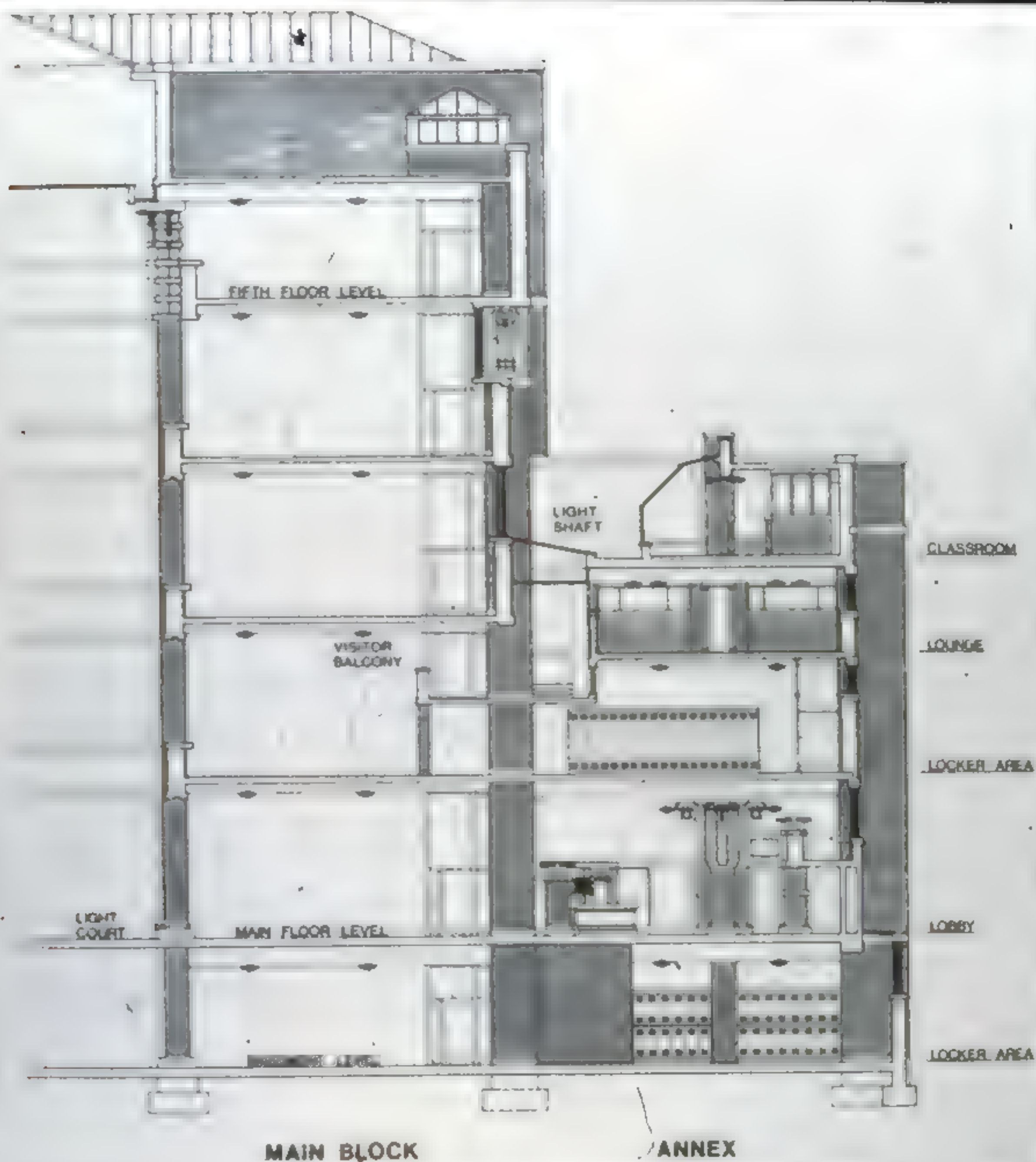


SECOND FLOOR



MAIN FLOOR



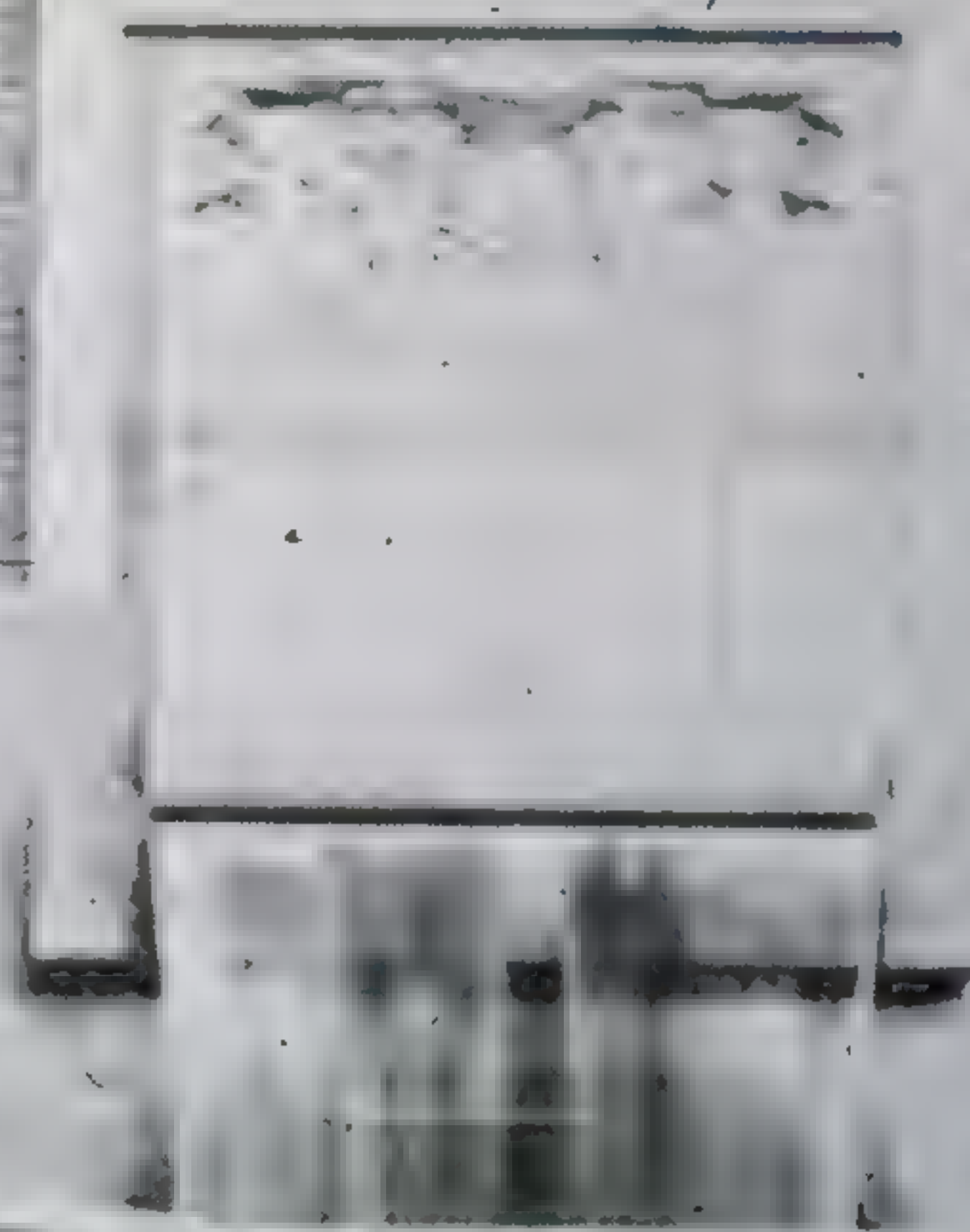


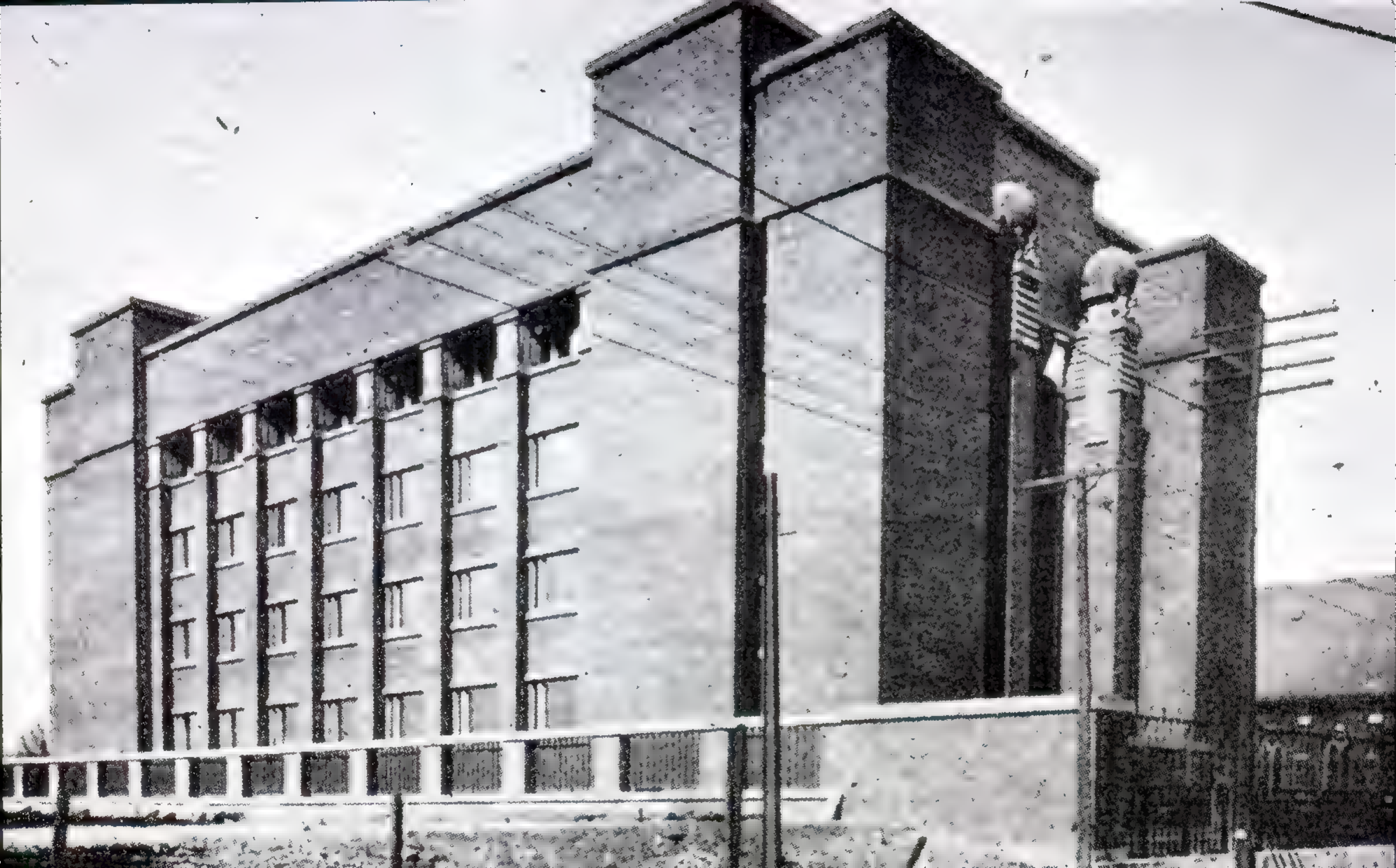


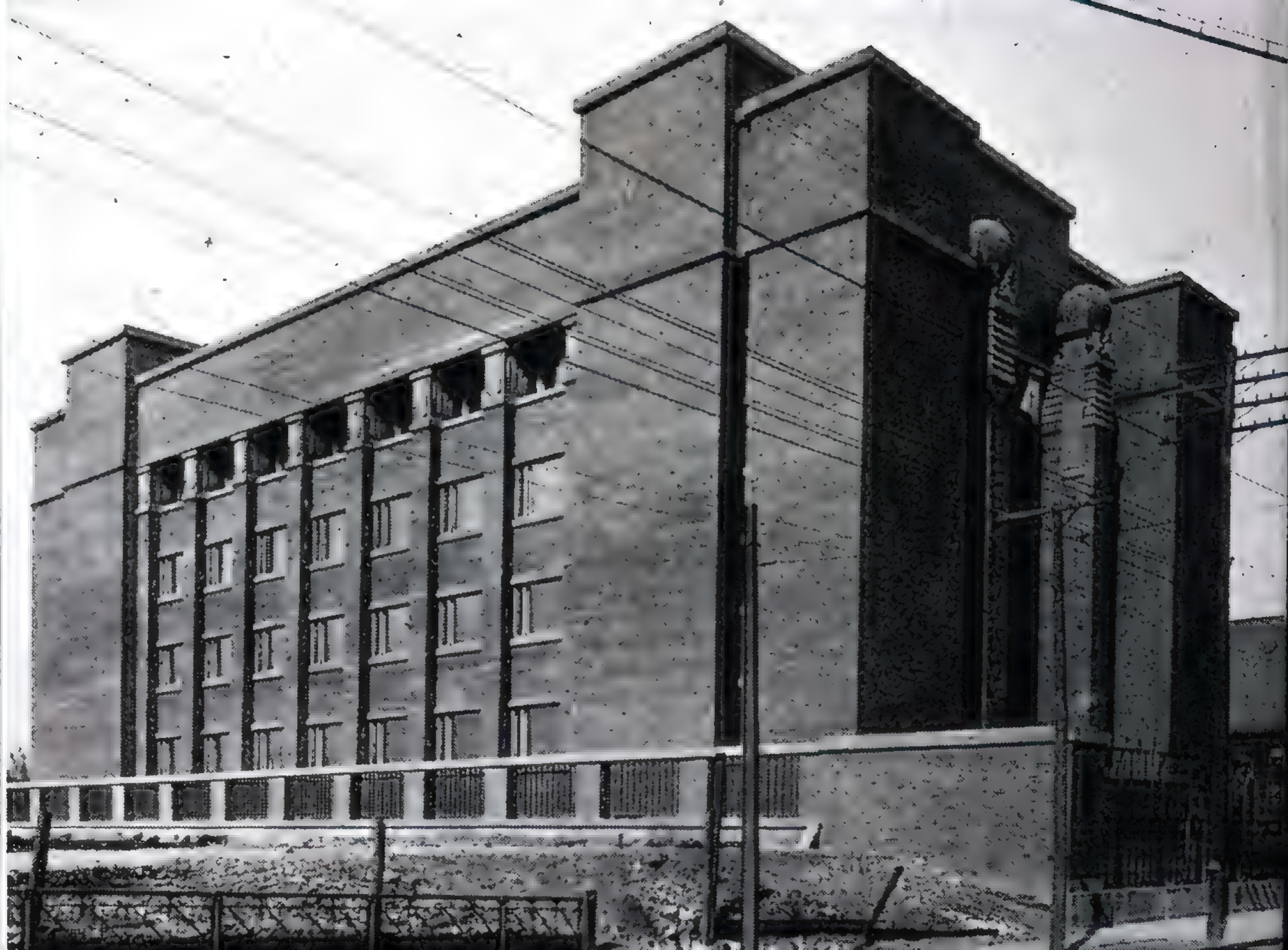





















ASK AND IT SHALL BE GIVEN YOU
KNOCK AND YE SHALL FIND
SHALL BE OPENED UNTO YOU



















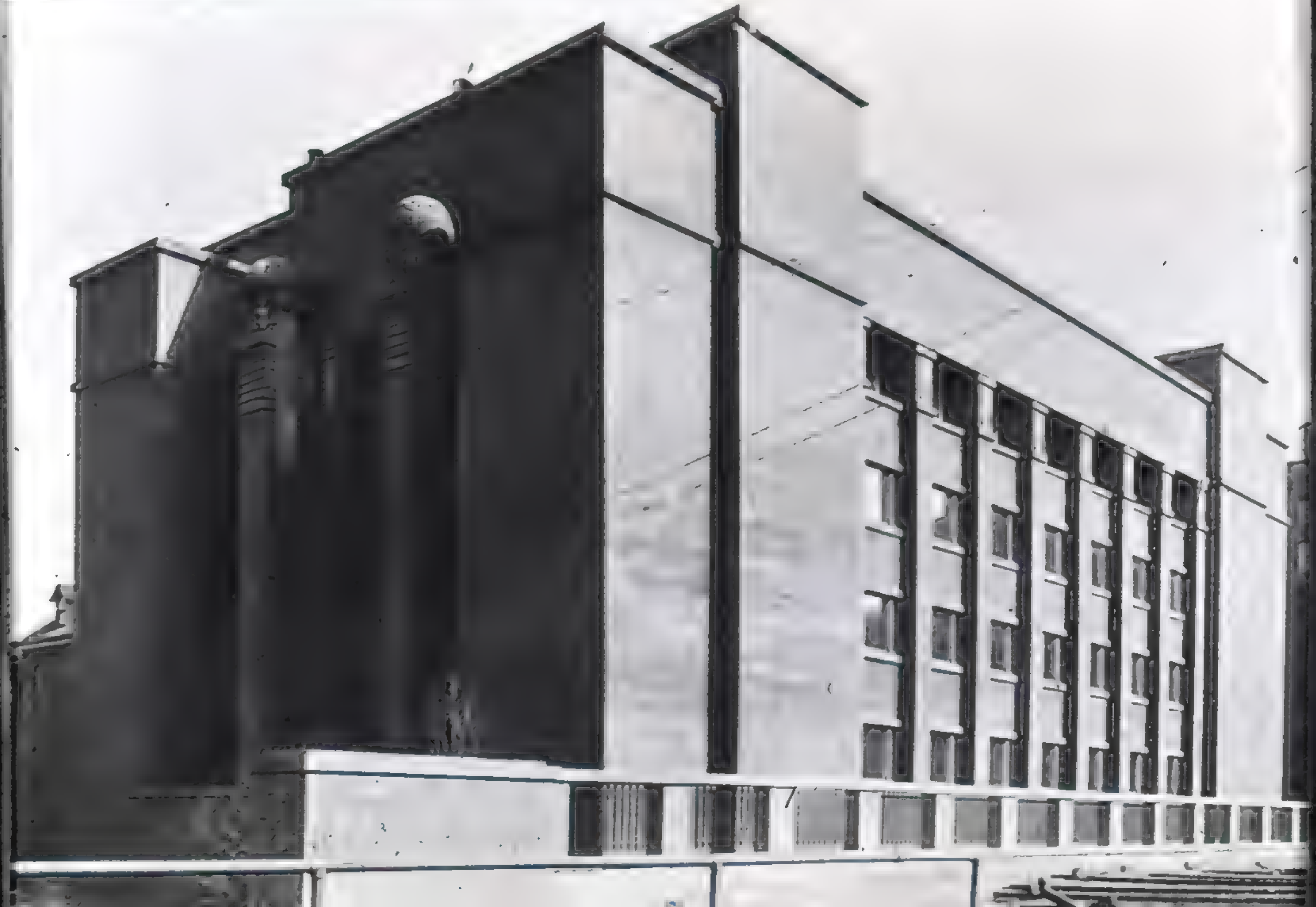


66 The Larkin complex, postcard view, ca. 1915.











Frank Lloyd Wright, Abraham Lincoln Center, Chicago, Illinois, first elevation, ca. 1899. (*Architectural Record* [Boston], 7, June 1900, p. 72)



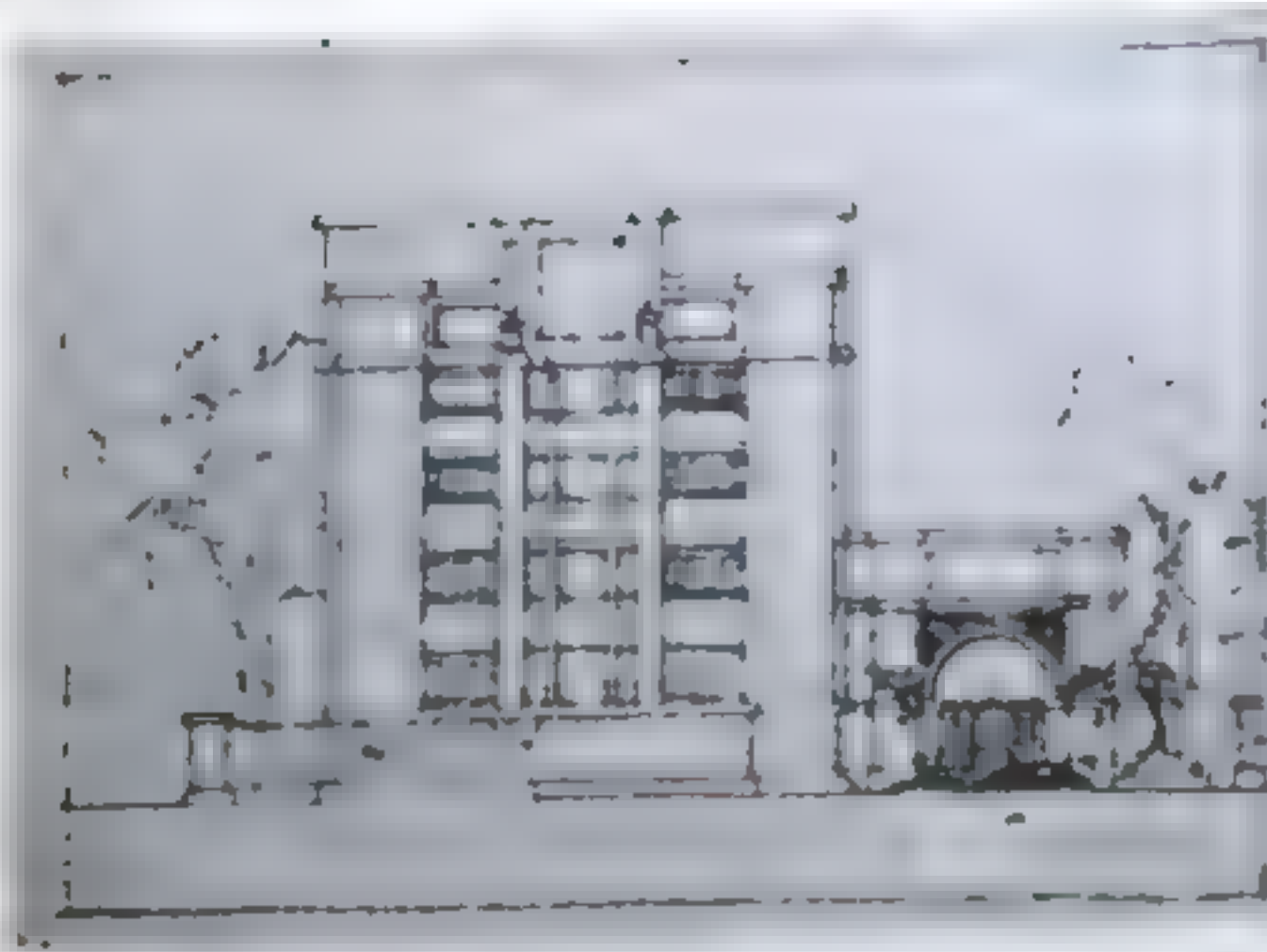
13 Louis Sullivan, Wainwright Building, Saint Louis, Missouri, 1890-91. (*Historic American Buildings Survey*)



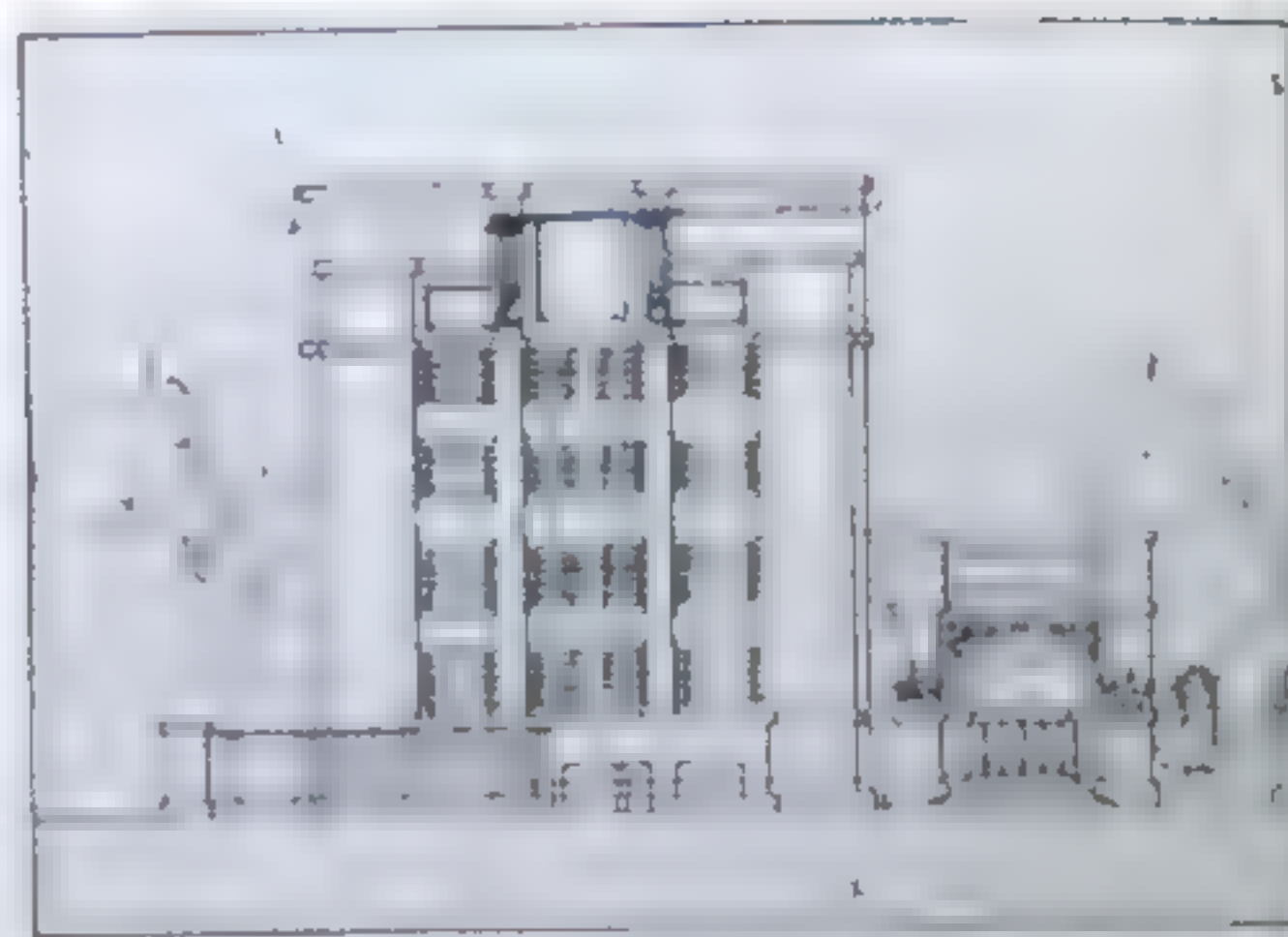




Frank Lloyd Wright's Larkin Building



9 Larkin Administration Building, Seneca Street elevation, first set of preliminary drawings, early 1903. (Grant C. Manson, *Frank Lloyd Wright to 1910: The First Golden Age*, New York, 1958, Fig. 90a)



10 Seneca Street elevation, second set of preliminary drawings, early 1903. (© The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, 1987. Courtesy the Frank Lloyd Wright Memorial Foundation)

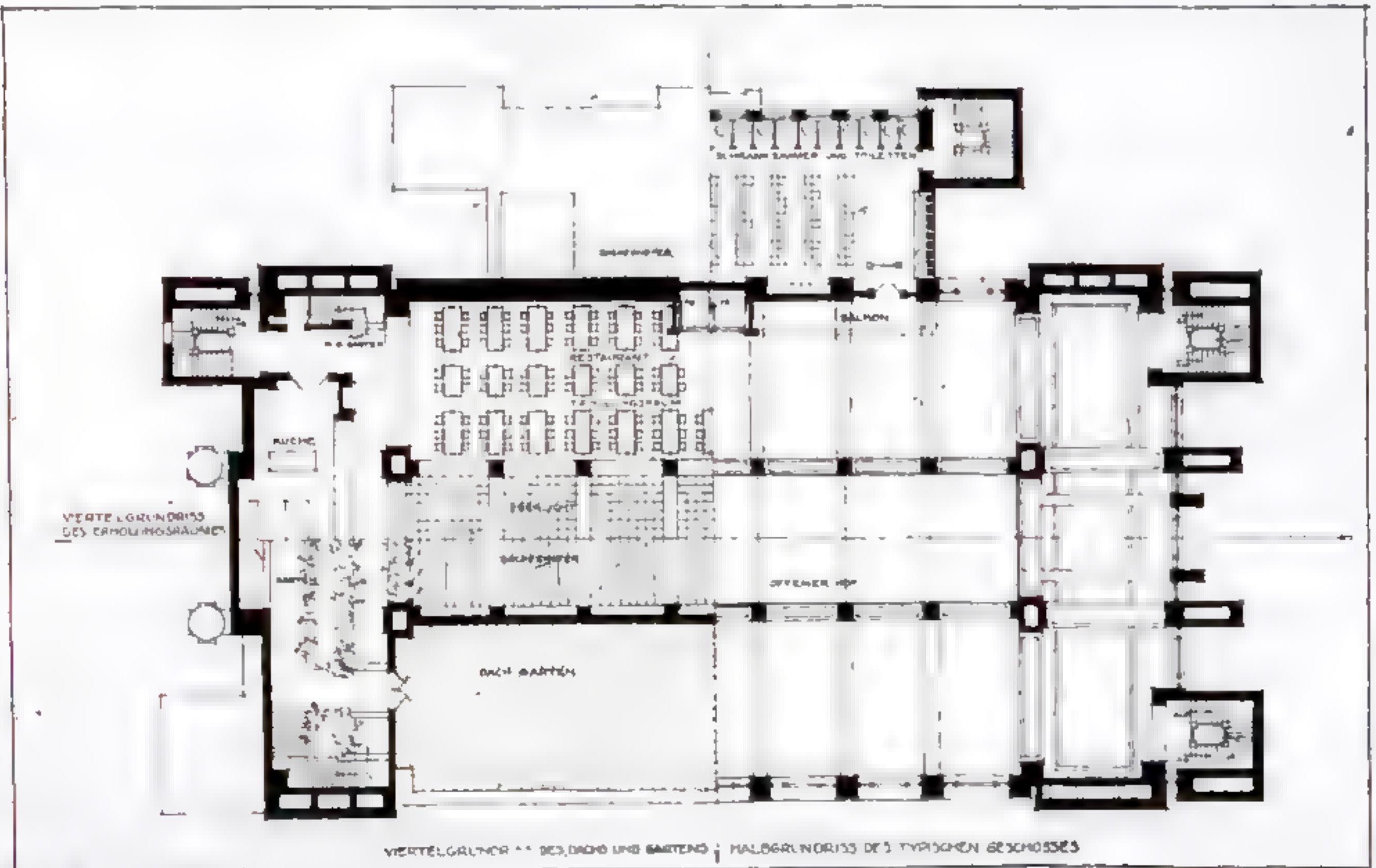


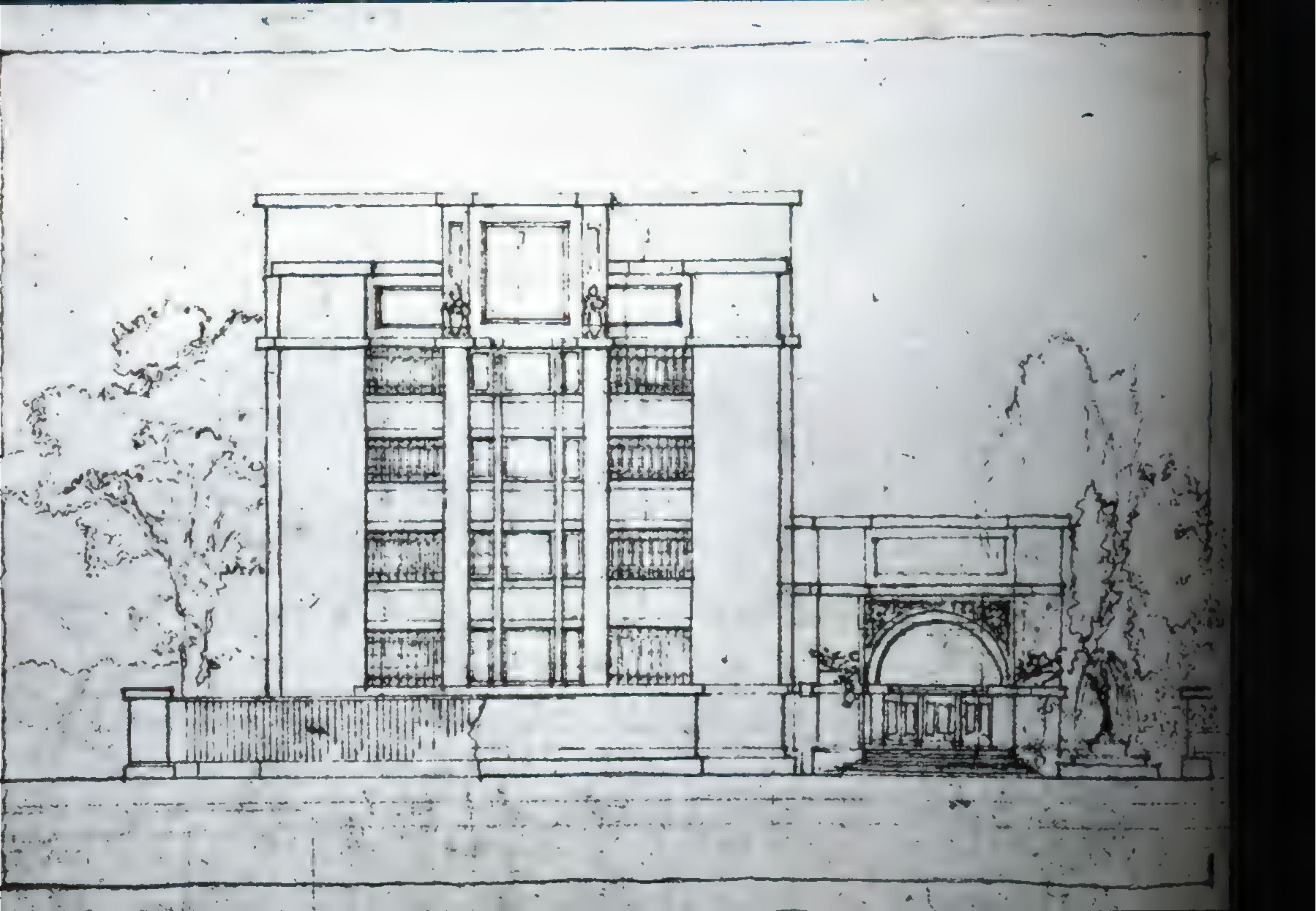
11 Seneca Street elevation. (Courtesy The Frank Lloyd Wright Memorial Foundation)

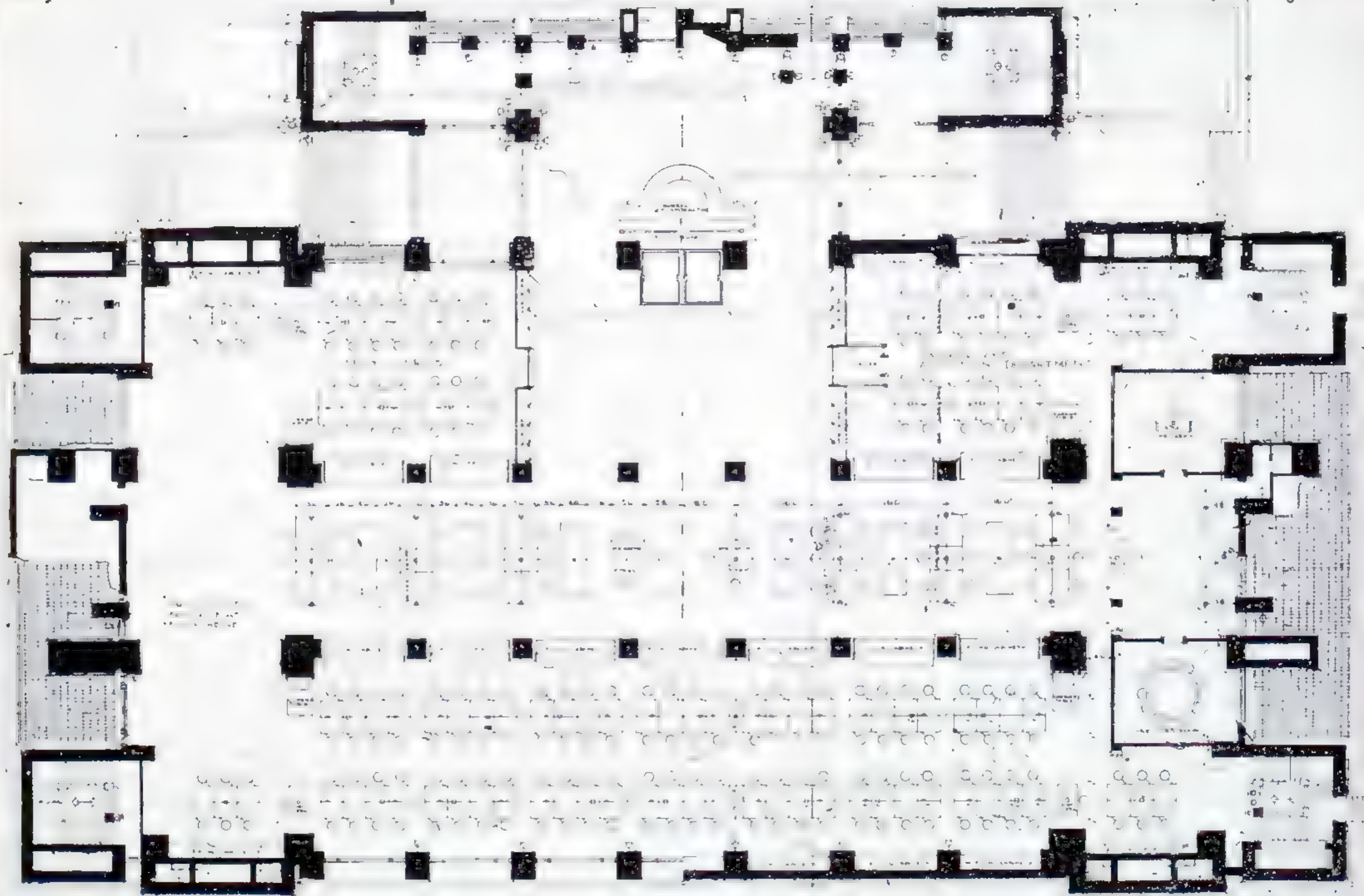


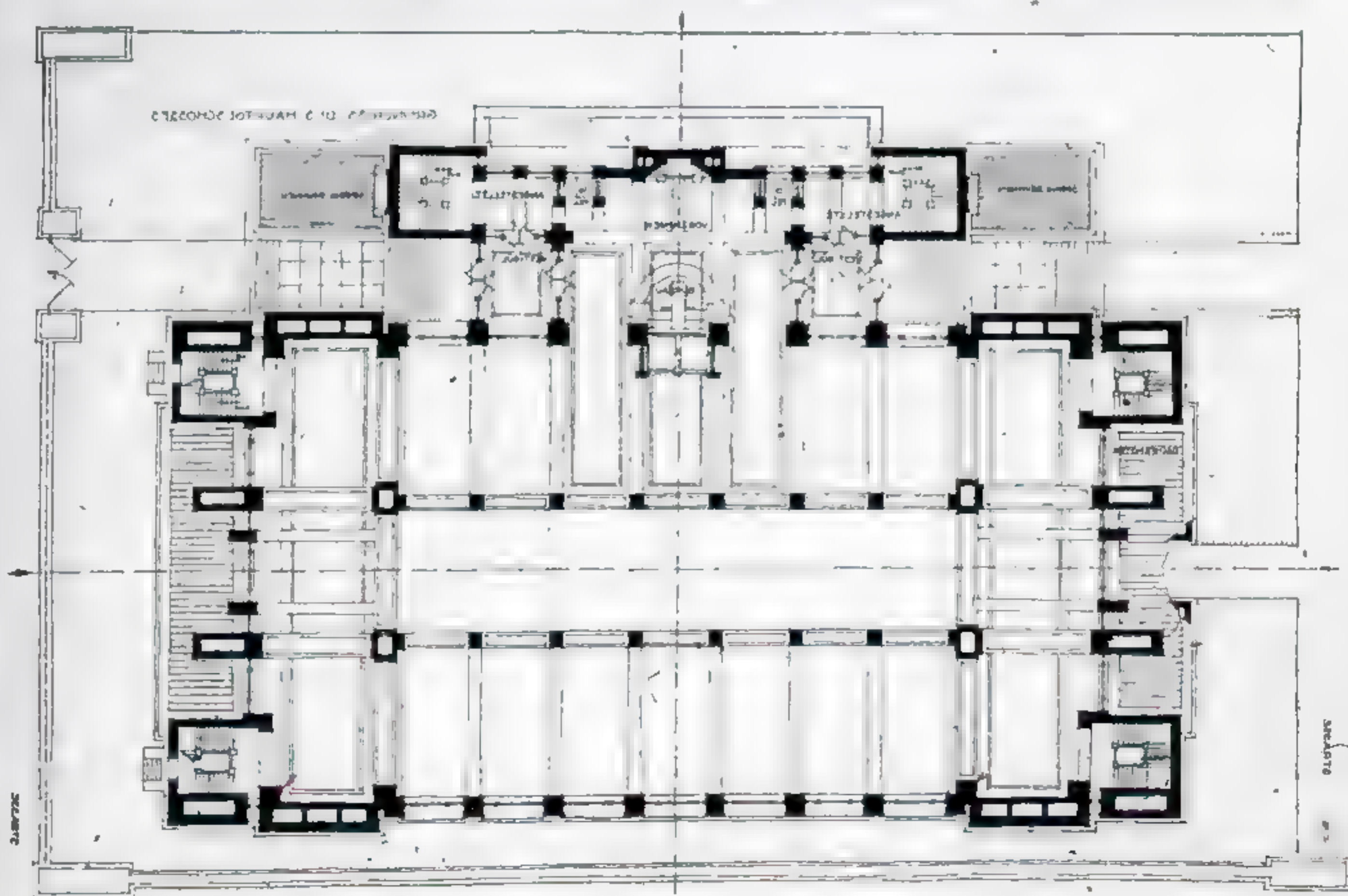


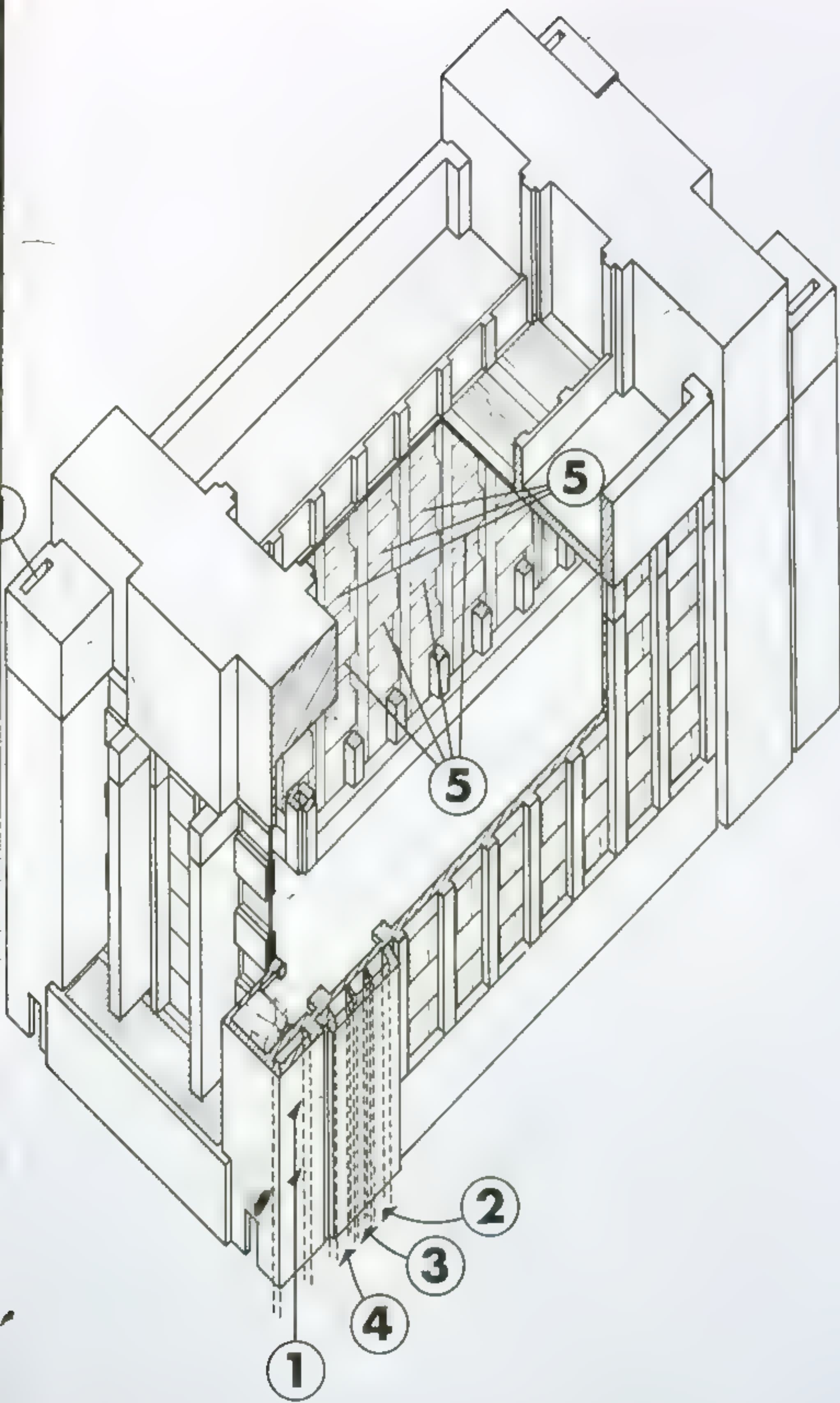
Architectural drawing of a large hall, showing the ceiling and floor structure.









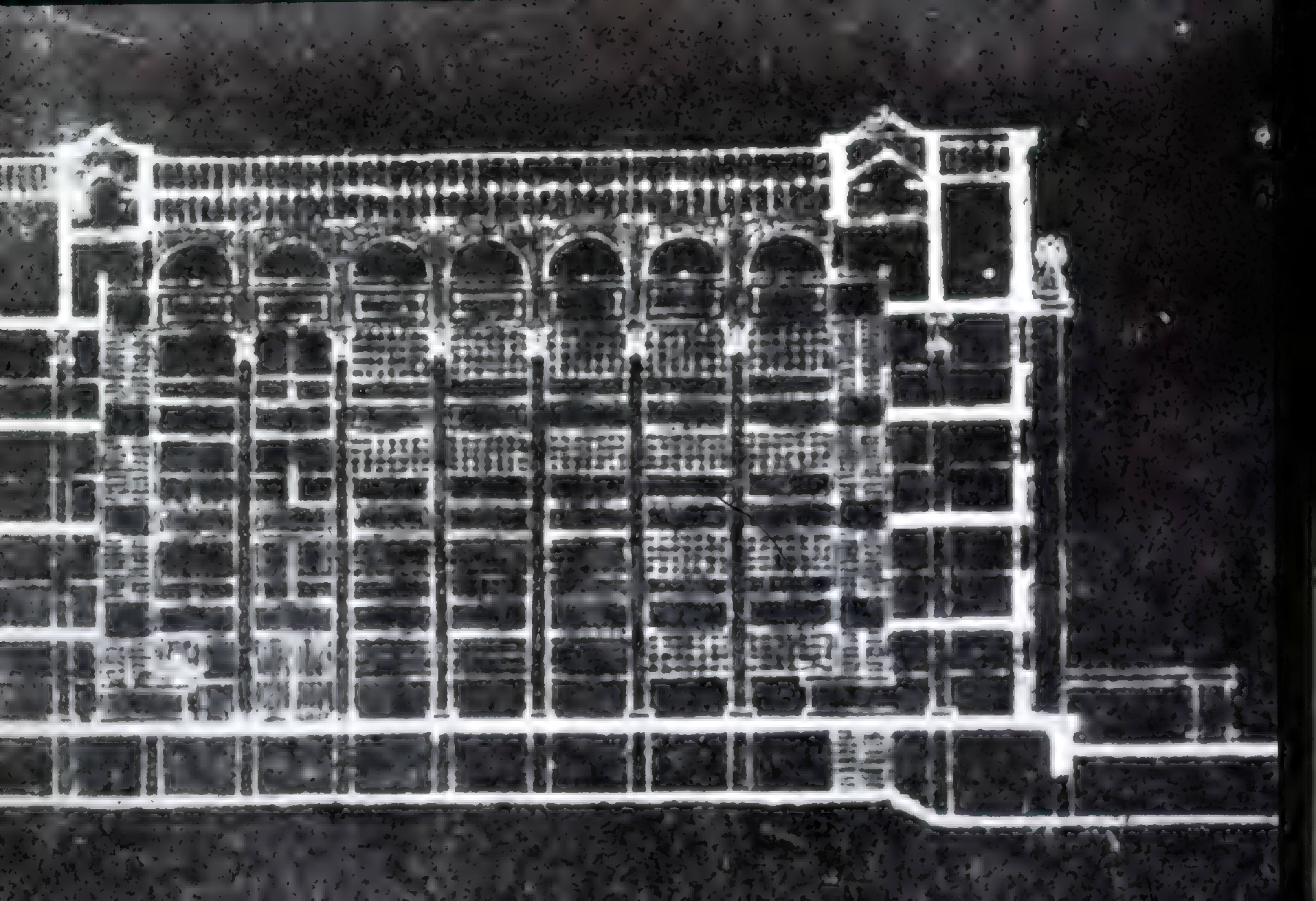


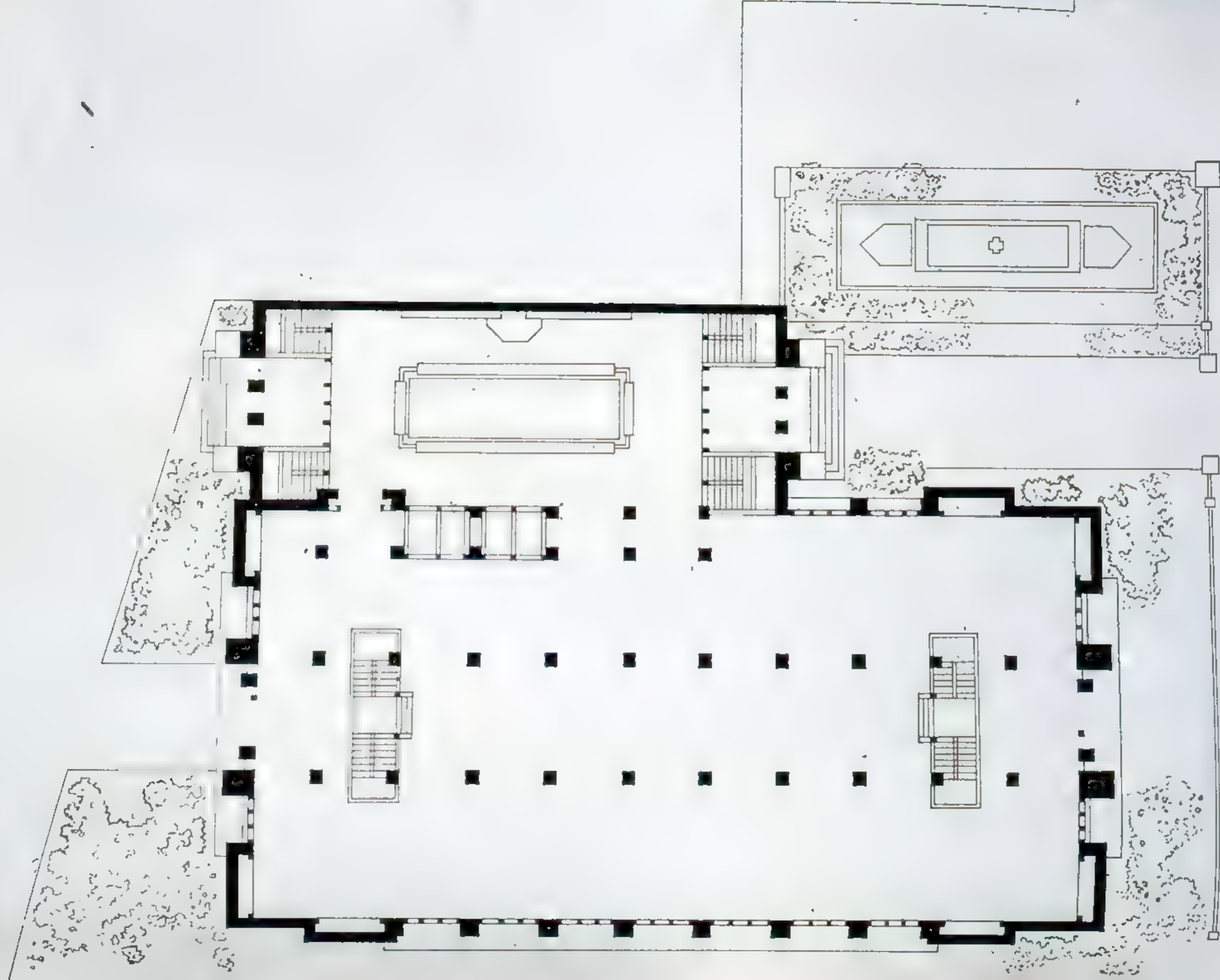
Larkin Building: cut-away drawing showing location of main air-ducts.

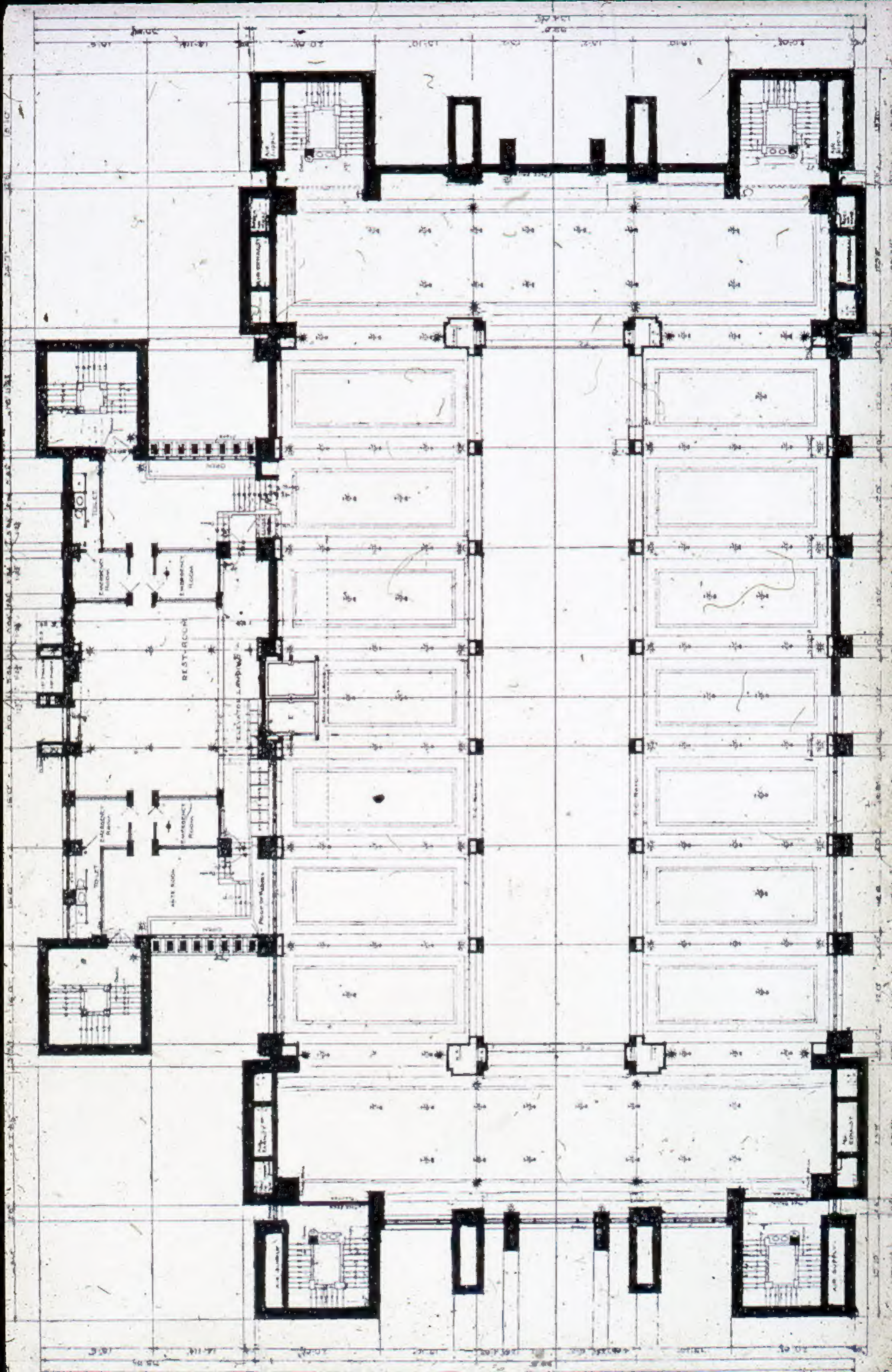
- Fresh air intake
- 2. Tempered air distribution
- 3. Foul air and exhaust
- 4. Utilities duct
- 5. Tempered air outlet grilles under edge of balconies

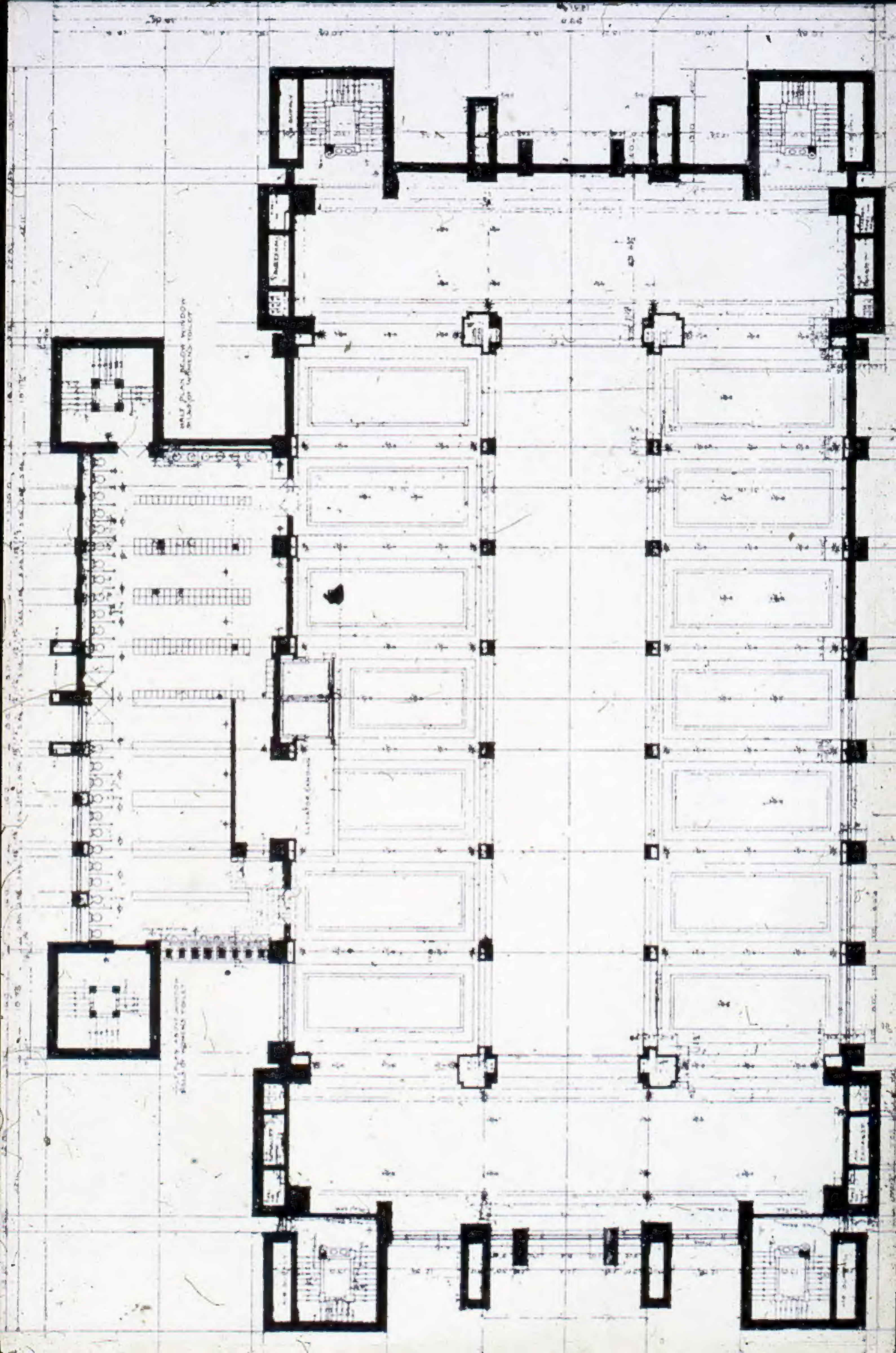






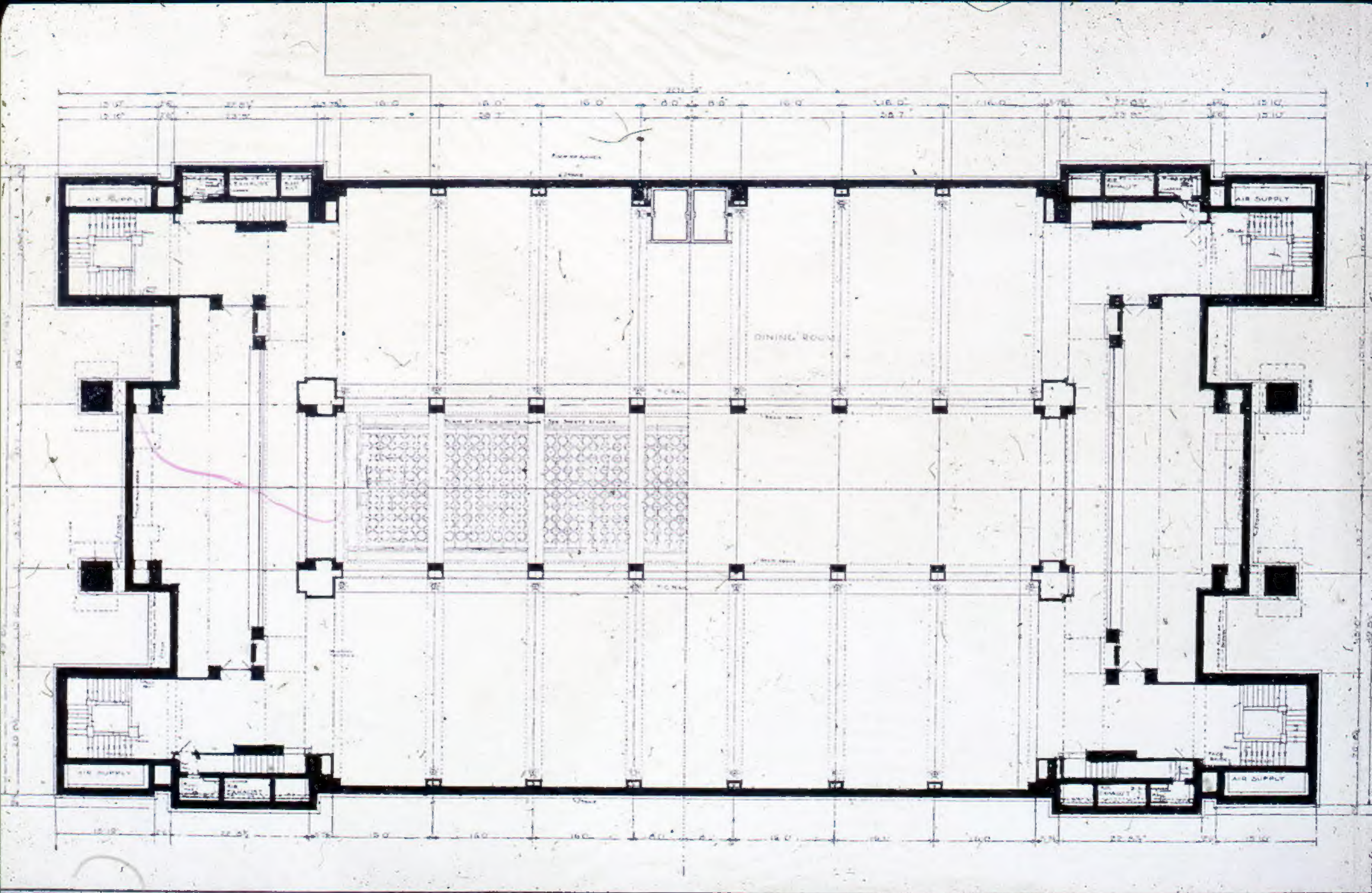


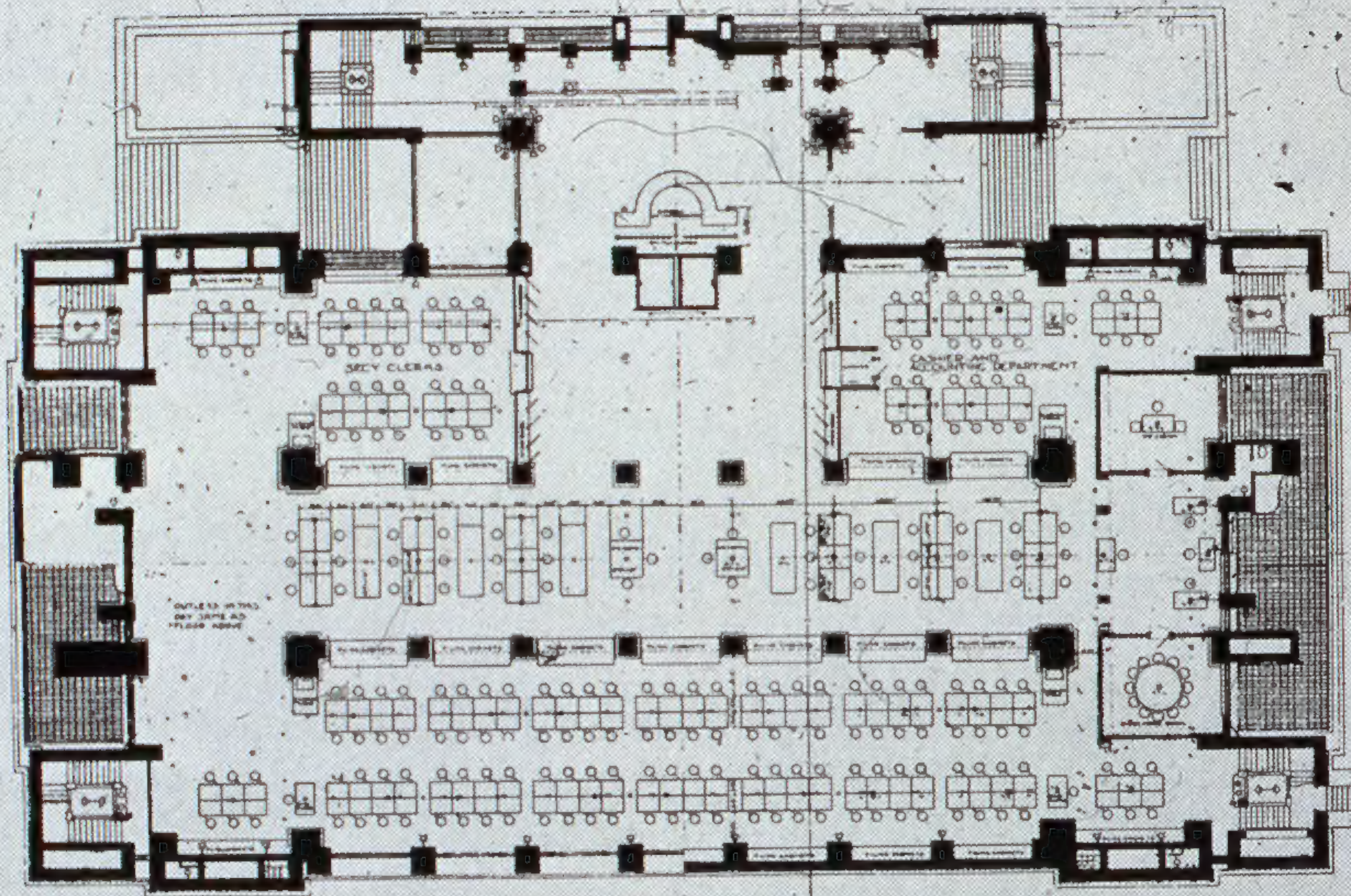




HALF PLAN BELOW WINDOW
SHOWING WARDEN'S TOILET

TOILET
SHOWING WARDEN'S TOILET





NOTE: BUILDING AND FLOOR PLAN
 1. THE BUILDING IS A RECTANGLE 100 FEET LONG BY 40 FEET WIDE.
 2. THE FLOOR PLAN IS A RECTANGLE 100 FEET LONG BY 40 FEET WIDE.
 3. THE BUILDING IS A RECTANGLE 100 FEET LONG BY 40 FEET WIDE.
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 9. THE BUILDING IS A RECTANGLE 100 FEET LONG BY 40 FEET WIDE.
 10. THE FLOOR PLAN IS A RECTANGLE 100 FEET LONG BY 40 FEET WIDE.

OFFICE BUILDING
 THE LARKIN SOAP CO
 BUFFALO NEW YORK
 FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT
 ARCHITECT CHICAGO
 FIRST FLOOR PLAN
 SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

HALF PLAN ABOVE WINDOW SILL

PLAN

HALF PLAN BELOW WINDOW SILL

791 Larkin Building and plan